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Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING (CLOSED)

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 23 January 1995, at 10.30 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria)

Chairman: Mr. PATOKALLIO (Finland)

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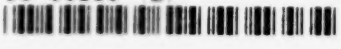

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN expressed the Committee's profound condolences to the Government and people of Japan for the tragic loss of life and property resulting from the recent earthquake in Kobe.

2. Mr. TANAKA (Japan) expressed appreciation for the condolences and said that the work of rebuilding the areas that had been stricken had already begun.

OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

3. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN declared open the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and welcomed the numerous delegations of the States parties.

4. At its third session, held from 12 to 16 September 1994 in Geneva, the Committee had completed a great deal of work towards finalizing the organizational and procedural aspects of the Conference. Considerable progress had been made as a result of the intensive discussions in the informal working group established to continue work on the draft rules of procedure. Some issues, however, required further consideration and consultation. The Committee had taken note of the results of the work of the informal working group as contained in document NPT/CONF.1995/PC.III/CRP.2 and had agreed to forward the draft rules of procedure to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for finalization.

5. The Committee had also been able to further advance its work on the agenda for the Conference. The results of its deliberations in Geneva were reflected in the Chairman's proposal annexed to the progress report on the session (NPT/CONF.1995/PC.III/15). At the current session, the Committee's task would be to reach final agreement on the agenda.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

6. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN said that following the Committee's request at the third session, he, in his capacity as Chairman of that session, had conducted a number of consultations on the question of the chairmanship of the fourth session and informed the Committee with great pleasure that there was agreement among all delegations that Mr. Patokallio (Finland) should be elected Chairman of the fourth session.

7. Mr. Patokallio (Finland) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

8. Mr. Patokallio (Finland) took the Chair.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was truly the common endeavour of all States parties. Since the Committee's third session, their number had increased through the accession of Algeria, Moldova, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. Moreover, Argentina was completing the final procedures for accession to the Treaty and Chile had started the necessary parliamentary procedures for accession. Those were very welcome developments and boded well for the further strengthening of the Treaty and for its universality.

10. It was already clear that the world community had a shared interest in the existence of the NPT. The previous Chairman of the Preparatory Committee had said that the Treaty had withstood the test of time and indeed it had.

ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

11. The CHAIRMAN said that since the current session was the last one before the Conference, the Committee should do its utmost to finalize the preparatory work.

12. He drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the draft programme of work, contained in document NPT/CONF.1995/PC.IV/1. During the consultations, it had been agreed to insert after item 2.5 a new item 3 entitled "Exchange of views", and renumber the remaining item accordingly. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft programme of work as amended.

13. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

14. The CHAIRMAN said that at the Committee's previous sessions, there had been an obvious desire on the part of States parties to engage in an exchange of views on substantive questions relating to the Treaty. Since the current session would be the final one before the Conference itself, it would be all the more appropriate to give delegations the opportunity to make statements on issues under agenda item 3, for which two meetings had been reserved.

15. Considerable progress had been made on item 2.1 during the Committee's third session. The results of the work on the rules of procedure were set forth in document NPT/CONF.1995/PC.III/CRP.2 and had been forwarded, in accordance with the Committee's decision, to its fourth session for finalization. That would require considerable effort and he intended to continue the practice of previous sessions and establish again an open-ended informal drafting group to work on the rules of procedure.

16. Referring to item 2.4, he said that the background documentation was being updated. It was his intention to invite the provisional Secretary-General of the Conference to inform delegations of the work done in that regard.

17. With regard to item 2.2, he pointed out that at its third session, the Committee had held an extensive exchange of views on the agenda for the

Conference and had agreed to forward the Chairman's suggested draft agenda as annexed to its progress report (NPT/CONF.1995/PC.III/15) to the Committee's fourth session for finalization.

18. With regard to item 2.3, the preparatory committees for previous review conferences had agreed to recommend for the consideration of the conferences an allocation of items to the three main committees on the understanding that the remaining items would be considered in plenary meetings. Clearly, such an allocation of items presupposed in the final instance agreement on the agenda itself. It was hoped that the Preparatory Committee for the forthcoming Conference could agree on the allocation of items. The preparatory committees for the previous review conferences had also agreed on recommendations concerning the officers for the conferences, in particular with regard to nominations for the posts of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the three main committees, the drafting committee and the credentials committee. At that stage, however, it seemed that further consultations between delegations might be needed on that issue.

19. Referring to item 2.5, he suggested that the Committee should exchange views on the number of documents to be adopted at the 1995 Conference.

20. Item 1.1 was self-explanatory: the Committee would need to consider and adopt its final report reflecting the work done throughout the preparatory process.

21. Lastly, he reminded delegations of the Committee's decision taken at its first session that there would be summary records for the Committee's last session.

ORGANIZATION OF THE 1995 CONFERENCE

Rules of procedure

22. The CHAIRMAN reminded delegations that he intended to continue the practice of informal consideration of the draft rules of procedure. As had been done at previous sessions, he suggested that the Committee should convene an open-ended drafting group. He had asked Mr. Sierla (Finland) to chair the group. The meetings of the informal group would be conducted in parallel with those of the Committee in order to proceed as efficiently as possible. In that connection, he suggested that the Committee should follow the practice established at the second and third sessions and conduct the meetings of the group without interpretation.

23. He said he took it that the Preparatory Committee agreed to that suggestion.

24. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.